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18 September 1957

The Files

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[REDACTED] Task Order "I" - Trip Report

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1. A visit was made to the [REDACTED] on 6 September 1957. The purpose of this visit was to again assure ourselves that the contractor is acting in good faith in carrying out the full intent of the 30 August 1956 proposal and thereby complete the task by 22 September 1957. Those present to discuss the task were as follows:

[REDACTED]

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2. The corporation representatives again restated their promise that the antenna engineering model and reports would be completed by 22 September 1957, in accordance with 30 August 1956 proposal. This promise was made on a conditional basis, contingent on the delivery of a klystron and on good weather conditions to permit outdoor antenna measurements.

3. Measurements as of 5 September 1957 have not been made above 10 kmc and the corporation's presently improvised equipment will not measure beyond 18 kmc; according to [REDACTED]. Upon receipt of the new klystron, [REDACTED] advises that the frequency range can be extended somewhat (with gaps) above 18 kmc. [REDACTED] pointed out that the corporation's request to purchase additional test equipment did not necessarily reflect that the company is lacking in facilities to complete the task. In making this request, he was proposing that sweep measurements could mean a faster and more thorough way of doing the job. Although, it now seems apparent that, up to the present time, the full compliment of equipment required had not been on hand.

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4. During the course of the conference, I asked to be shown the work in progress on the antenna they plan to deliver on or about 22 September 1957. I was advised by [REDACTED] that (on this particular day) they were not set up for antenna measurements as they were required to engage in other projects. I was further advised that the antenna delivered would be the same as I had seen on a previous trip. No other voluntary offers were made by the contractor to permit any degree of inspection of the work performed on this trip. A nearly completed engineering antenna model was brought into the conference room for inspection. This equipped with a bandpass filter covered the 2.5 to 5 kmc frequency range. Subsequent to the start of this program, SP indicated their desire to obtain frequency discrimination,

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and as a result, [redacted] was given representative filters and asked to investigate the possibility of including such filters in the design of the antenna. An SP representative accompanied the undersigned on 11 July 1957 to discuss this added feature. This brought about a slight re-orientation of the program as it had been originally outlined in the technical proposal, and redefined during the course of a meeting on 5 March 1957. Work was stopped on this antenna as a result of the contractor advising the Agency that incorporation of filters would deteriorate the antenna performance, and the possibilities that the contractor could bring about technicalities to increase the scope of the contract.

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5. [redacted] was questioned for the basis of this present reasoning in regards to the antenna performing as prescribed up to 20 kmc, since as of this date, he has not made any measurements above 10 kmc. His reasoning is that since performance data at lower frequencies had supported his theoretical conclusions, and calculations there is very little reason to believe that similar results could not be obtained at higher frequencies.

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6. Should the contractor request an extension of time beyond 22 September 1957, a full and thorough justification for this action should be required. It now appears that the contractor has not given sufficient time and effort to this study, and has not regarded this task with sufficient interest and in a priority manner. Indications now seem to be rather apparent that the company has misrepresented itself in the proposal stating it had personnel and facilities to do a thorough job. As the present engineering personnel are mostly new, the company therefore does not have specialists experienced (with proven reputations) in the antenna field. Also, the equipment on hand for this work is largely GFE transferred over from TBS tasks. The remainder being largely improvised for our antenna work. Furthermore, [redacted] advised in a previous conference that he did not want to invest in additional test equipment needed for antenna development work as the company was not going to specialize in this field, and he wanted to use his limited funds to purchase test equipment for more lucrative fields.

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OC-E/R&D-EP/LHG:mjr (18 Sept.)

cc: R&D Subject File
Monthly Report
R&D Lab
R&D Chrono
EP Chrono

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